

D.A. Urges New Efforts in War on Crime

By REID L. BUNDY
Press-Herald Managing Editor

"Crime is increasing at a substantial if not alarming rate," District Attorney Evelle J. Younger said here this week. "And it's going to get worse before it gets better," he warned.

Speaking to nearly 200 business and civic leaders at the November membership meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, Younger outlined some of the causes for his

concern and urged his listeners to take an active role in the war on crime.

Among the factors contributing to the nation's sordid crime picture, Younger pointed out, is the increase in the number of persons in the 14 to 29 age group who commit the bulk of the crimes; the uncertainty of a war situation, and the growing trend toward urbanization.

"Ninety-seven per cent of our young people are better than ever," the county's

chief law enforcement officer said. "The bad three per cent are worse than ever," he added.

He urged the community leaders at the Thursday luncheon to be "completely impatient with the business as usual attitude."

What needs to be done, he said, is to upgrade California's already outstanding police departments.

"We've got the finest local law enforcement in the world right here in Southern California, but it's got to get better," he said.

Younger said California had a lot of dedicated policemen, lawyers, and judges who were not willing to give up in the crime war.

"The courts, and particularly the U. S. Supreme Court, has handed down a series of decisions that make law enforcement more difficult," the district attorney said. He said he did not want to criticize them but pointed out that the court's aim was to

make it tougher on police officers.

"Don't complain," he advised. "Spend that time getting more, better trained, and better paid police officers," he said.

Younger also urged that law enforcement agencies be given some new tools to use in the war on crime.

Needed in this area, he said, are better communications with the average citizen; some legislative reforms, particularly in the matter of

state pre-emption of local vice laws, and a better use of America's vast technological abilities.

"Anybody who can put a man on the moon—and we're about to—should be able to find out enough about people to take the guesswork out of paroles," he said.

As the job of the policeman gets tougher, other ways and means to combat the criminal must be developed, Younger said. He pointed out as an example the recent announce-

ment of the voiceprint as a means of identifying suspects.

"Get involved," Younger warned. He urged the Chamber members to study legislative proposals and support those they favored and oppose those they didn't like.

"But don't ignore them," he stressed.

Chairman of the luncheon meeting was Charles Cederlof, membership chairman for the Chamber of Commerce. John Flanigan introduced Younger.

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THUMBS DOWN ON "Z" . . . Leaders of the Torrance League of Women Voters, who have been spearheading opposition to the Mayor-Go-Round amendment on Tuesday's ballot, indicate their disapproval of the measure here. From left are Mrs. W. F. Barnes, vice president; Mrs. William Radcliffe, president; and Mrs. C. R. Berwanger, a past president of the League. The League has been calling for charter review but says "piecemeal revisions to accommodate transitory personal animosities are not the answer." (Press-Herald Photo)

Big Money Backing Doubtful 'Z' Issue

There is a "reasonable probability" that Mayor Albert Isen will lose his seat on the City Council if a proposed amendment to the city's charter is approved by voters Tuesday.

City Attorney Stanley Remelmeyer told the Press-Herald Friday that the courts would decide the issue should the amendment pass, but added that the "bulk of law" probably would lean in favor of ousting the mayor.

The proposal, which appears on the ballot as Amendment Z, would abolish the direct election of the mayor by the people and substitute a provision which would permit a majority of the city council to name one of their own members as mayor. No term of office is specified and the mayor would serve only as long as he has the support of at least three other councilmen.

David K. Lyman authored the measure, which was presented to the council just two days before the deadline for submitting ballot measures in mid-September.

REMELMAYER said the measure poses two problems, should it win voter approval. First, he said, there is the question of the mayor being ousted as mayor. Secondly, there is a question of whether Isen would retain any office in the city.

Charter amendments nor-

mally become effective as soon as they are ratified by the State Legislature, Remelmeyer said, and should Amendment Z be so interpreted, Isen would lose his title.

Remelmeyer said under those circumstances, it is questionable that Isen would even remain on the council, since the city charter now sets up a special office of mayor. "The mayor is not a councilman," Remelmeyer said, "although he has the powers of a councilman." Such reasoning, he explained, could lead to the conclusion that Isen would lose his council seat in a move that would be tantamount to a recall action.

THE CITY attorney warned, however, that he bases his statements on principles of law and not on decided cases. "I don't want to manufacture law," Remelmeyer said. "If the law isn't exact, it's foolish to be exact."

"There is not sufficient precedent to enable me to come to a definitive conclusion," he added.

Backers of the measure denied at first that it was aimed at Isen, but attacks on the mayor's conduct and personal life have been made repeatedly in the past weeks in an apparently well-financed campaign to win voter approval of the amendment.

Lyman, in an "open letter"

to residents released last Tuesday, accused the mayor of misusing his office to silence those who disagree with him and of bringing "notoriety and bad publicity" to the city by his conduct in public.

ISEN HAS branded the charges a "subterfuge" and an attempt to give the "impression I'm running for office." Isen maintains he has a "vested interest" in the office of mayor and cannot be removed — except by recall — before his term expires in April, 1970.

The Torrance League of Women Voters, the Junior Chamber of Commerce, and the Chamber of Commerce board all are on record as opposing Amendment Z. The league of Women Voters has called for a complete review of the city charter by a competent citizens' committee and branded the measure a "piecemeal" revision.

"Haste and the heat of personal conflicts do not provide a sound climate for amending any city's charter," Mrs. William Radcliffe, president of the League of Women Voters, said. "We believe that proposed Charter Amendment Z was conceived in haste, at the height of personal differences within the City Council, and should be defeated by voters of Torrance."

Vehicle Dragged 75 Feet

A 27-year-old Harbor City woman was killed Friday night after her car slammed into a freight train on Sepulveda Boulevard just east of Walnut Street.

Miss Iris Tanaka of 1155 W. Woodbury Drive died at Harbor General Hospital about 90 minutes after the 10 p.m. crash. Police said she suffered massive internal injuries.

Police and firemen worked about 45 minutes to free the woman from her tangled car, which was dragged about 75 feet and overturned following the collision.

ENGINEER T. C. Teague of Manhattan Beach told officers he was backing in a southerly direction at about 12 to 15 miles per hour when the woman's vehicle struck the train.

Teague and witnesses to the crash said the flashing crossing signals were in operation at the time of the crash. Teague was not held.

Miss Tanaka was a member of the 1966 United States Olympic Ski Team. She attended schools in Chicago. She is survived by her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Iwao Tanaka of Harbor City.

The body was taken to Halverson-Leavell Mortuary, where funeral arrangements are pending.

A 16-YEAR-OLD girl struck Friday afternoon by a bicycle was reported in satisfactory condition yesterday at Little Company of Mary Hospital.

Kathleen Ann Larson of 2523 Brian Ave. suffered a (See CRASH, Page A-2)

City Hall To Close For Voting

Most city offices will be closed to the public Tuesday, although all city employees will be at work, City Clerk Vernon W. Coil has announced.

Coil said his office will be open to the public to handle inquiries about the elections. Rubbish collection crews also will work throughout the week.

All city offices will be closed Friday, Veterans' Day, but trash collections will be made as usual.



INSPECTS WORK . . . Ahmet Nalcaci (at right), mayor of Konya, Turkey, takes a look at drafting work done by West High student Bill League during a tour of West High School. Nalcaci and five other Turkish government officials toured the school during a week-long visit here. For other pictures of the visit, see page A-3 in today's editions of the Press-Herald.

(Press-Herald Photo by Jerry Reynolds)

Planners Deny Dump Proposal

A proposal to establish a Homeowners Association privately operated dump in the former sand and gravel operations area south of Pacific Coast Highway and west of Crenshaw in the WALTERIA area was rejected on the unanimous vote of the Planning Commission Wednesday night.

An overflow crowd of residents from the area attended to protest the proposal. More than 100 persons had to be turned away from the City Council chambers to conform with fire regulations Wednesday.

THE VOTE to deny the petition of Elizabeth Senness and Peter and Agnes Del Rio came on the motion of Commissioner Kenneth Uyeda who also suggested that the commission review the conditions of the present variance for sand and gravel operations on the property. Residents near the site have charged that terms of the 1948 variance has been violated over the years.

A spokesman for the Rivi-

New Tower Under Way In Center

Issuance of a \$3.5 million building permit for the shell structure of a 13-story high-rise building in the Del Amo Financial Center was announced Friday by John J. McKinnon, superintendent of building and safety for the city.

The permit, one of the largest issued in recent years, follows by about two weeks a permit for a parking garage at the financial center which boosted the October totals to \$2.9 million, McKinnon said.

The parking garage permit, valued at nearly \$1.6 million, accounted for more than half the total permits issued in October, McKinnon reported.

OCTOBER totals brought to \$24,042,800 the value of all new construction begun here since Jan. 1, 1966. No new apartment units or single family homes were reported during the month. Two duplex units, however, were reported.

Largest of the permits, apart from the parking garage, was issued to R. G. Harris for an industrial building at 2830 Lomita Blvd. The building is one of several planned for a 28-acre industrial park in the 2800 block of Lomita Boulevard.

OTHER PERMITS were issued to National Cash Register Co. (\$150,000) for remodeling of a warehouse at 640 Alaska St.; Karl Frudenberg (\$139,720) for a manufacturing facility at 24725 Crenshaw (See TOWER, Page A-2)

TV, Rifle Stolen

A television set and a .22-caliber rifle were taken from her home Friday afternoon, Mrs. Leo Ullman of 20615 Madrona Ave. told Torrance Police. Mrs. Ullman had gone out for a short time and apparently left a door unlocked, police reported.

Yes on 'V'

Torrance Unified School District — growing at the rate of a thousand students a year, needs funds to build the classrooms needed to house the students. Proposition V on Tuesday's ballot asks for approval of a \$9 million bond issue. It has the endorsement of many of the community's civic groups, business leaders, and parents' organizations. The Press-Herald has recommended its passage and the Board of Education has unanimously endorsed the proposal. Torrance Voters should vote YES Tuesday on Proposition V.

No on 'Z'

Proposition Z on Tuesday's ballot would change the city's charter and take from the voters their privilege of selecting the city's mayor and would let the City Council select its own mayor, who would be subject to a change by the City Council majority on a meeting to meeting basis. The Press-Herald, the League of Women Voters, the Chamber of Commerce and the Junior Chamber of Commerce have formally opposed the measure. It should be defeated Tuesday. Vote NO on Z.

(See Today's Editorial on Page A-4)